

# SOCIAL News-Letter ACTION

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## WORLD COUNCIL STRESSES SOCIAL ISSUES

WALTER W. SIKES

Two world councils were in session in Europe in September—the first, the World Assembly of Churches in Amsterdam which brought to completion the creation of the World Council of Churches; the second, the third regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations meeting in Paris.

Despite the long agenda of vital issues now being debated and decided in Paris, it is probable that the voice of Amsterdam will influence more deeply and significantly the destiny of mankind than anything that is said or done at Paris. It is certain that the point of view taken at Amsterdam, as contrasted with that which now prevails in Paris, offers the more hopeful course to a tolerable future for the peoples of the world.

For the World Council of Churches, supported by the insights of the prophetic and redemptive Word of God, spoke at every moment from a truly supranational standpoint, from which standpoint it saw all nations and all history as arrayed before the judgment of, and sustained by the mercy of, God who created all men and all nations and who is a partisan of none. Here it saw all as united in bonds which none chose and none can escape—the brotherhood of creation, the solidarity of transgression, and the fellowship of God's mercy in Christ. It can truly be said that as of today only in the Church is the unity of mankind experienced; and the World Council of Churches is the most manifest body in which this spirit of unity finds its incarnation.

On the other hand, the United Nations is an international union in which a view transcending that of clashing nationalisms is rarely, if ever, achieved. At this third General Assembly it is more obvious than ever that the United Nations is a forum which the various competing nations use as a propaganda device to voice their respective nationalistic claims and interests. This has very great value. For it not only allows but even requires that the several nations appeal to the judgment and conscience of the world. But as yet the only organ of the UN which has been able to take a truly world point of view is the Secretariat. That such is the case is highly significant. For here alone the members who constitute the body have given themselves to a loyalty that transcends all national loyalties. This is due less to the character of the individuals concerned than to the constitutional structure of the United Nations itself. Yet it is obvious that the General Assembly and the Security Council could not be brought to a similar point of view by any constitutional change alone.

The problem set before this generation is that of creating both the constitutional structure of government which will allow and foster a world mind and the spirit of world community which will support this kind of world government. Neither is possible apart from the other. The importance of the World Council of Churches at this point can scarcely be over-emphasized. That its official pronouncements are spoken from a position transcending the nationalistic interests of every nation is less important than that here is realized an organic, if yet tenuous, unity the historical logic of which must impel the peoples of the world to seek such secular institutions as will maintain and fulfill this unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

## THE "30-DAY PREVENTIVE WAR"

JAMES A. CRAIN

If you are puzzled about where Mr. Vishinsky gets the idea that the United States plans an atomic war against Russia you might read what some of our military men are saying in the service publications. For example, an article entitled, "Operational Concepts for Modern War," by Col. Dale O. Smith, U.S.A.F., in a recent issue of the *Quarterly Review* of the Air University of the U.S. Air Force. In this article Col. Smith outlines the plan for a so-called "preventive war," which he estimates might be won in 30 days. While the idea is completely unofficial and is said to have been rejected by top defense circles, its publication adds to the tension of the current war of nerves.

Col. Smith declares that air power, properly shaped and directed, can force a decision "within a month at the outside." Two missions of 300 planes carrying atomic bombs could damage an enemy as much as four years of sustained bombing of the World War II type used against Germany. (Three missions could do the same damage as six years of the old type bombing, and so on.) By one blow, or a brief series of blows attacking every critical element of an enemy's economy, a general disintegration of industry could be created that would preclude repair. Directed against "population destruction in urban areas," a nation could be killed "just as surely as a man will die if a bullet pierces his heart and his circulatory system is stopped." Full allowance has been made by Col. Smith for factors of accuracy, misses and gross errors.

## YALE INSTITUTE TO T.C.U.

Announcement is made by the Laboratory of Applied Physiology of Yale University of the establishment of a long range program of research, clinical and educational activities relating to the alcohol problem in the Southwest to be centered at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. The program will be known as the Yale Institute of Alcohol Studies in the Southwest. As described in the September issue of the *Quarterly Journal on Alcohol Studies*, activities will be conducted from Texas Christian University, though administrative responsibility will remain at New Haven. A research unit in the social sciences will be established at T.C.U., a clinic for alcoholics on the Yale Plan model will be opened in Dallas, and a Summer School of Alcohol Studies will be held at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. The San Antonio Summer School will be in addition to the regular summer session at Yale. The Institute will also carry on informal educational activities at all levels throughout the Southwest. Bayne E. Driskill, former pastor of the Magnolia Avenue Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has been called to head up a financial campaign to underwrite the program.

The Department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society will extend its scholarship aid plan to include the Southwest Summer Session. Under the plan the department will join state and area mission boards, educational commissions and boards of missionary education-organizations to provide scholarships to selected persons who will agree to serve as resource persons on alcohol problems. For information address Department of Social Welfare, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.



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### FOOD PARCELS FOR PASTORS

Church World Service, Inc., announces that nearly 10,000 of the 17,000 Evangelical pastors in Germany have been receiving food parcels at intervals of one to two months as a result of contributions made to Hilfswerk (the Protestant relief agency in Germany) by the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, Inc. What these unexpected gifts have meant to these pastors and their usually large families can hardly be explained. The pastors constitute the pillars of both the spiritual life of the people and of the unique relief work being carried on by Hilfswerk for millions of the destitute, needy, and infirm. The burden of administration and distribution of relief supplies rests largely on their shoulders. For all the endless and tiresome work they are doing they receive no more food or supplies than do the people whom they shepherd. Usually they receive less food, since they are reluctant to earmark even a small part of the gifts received for their own needy families. As a result many undisclosed tragedies are happening in parsonages, the very centers from which material and help must come for so many people.

### YOU CAN HELP LOCATE A DISPLACED PERSON

Robert Tobias, Disciple representative at the Geneva headquarters of the World Council of Churches sends an appeal on behalf of the committee for refugees with "my strongest recommendation that our churches take any action possible on behalf of refugees." The committee's statement is as follows:

"The Amsterdam Assembly of the World Council of Churches has underscored the urgency of resettling refugees, whose plight weighs upon the Christian conscience of the world. . . . In the final analysis the only way to enable these people to start a new way of life is to find homes and jobs for them. This can be done if every local congregation and agency will take responsibility for securing work and housing for at least one family. Many of these uprooted people are fellow Christians from Protestant and Orthodox Churches. You can do this:

1. Help find jobs and living quarters in your community.
2. Organize a local refugee settlement committee to bring this problem to public attention and action.
3. Relate your local committee to the national and international Christian agencies operating on your behalf among refugees in Europe and elsewhere.
4. Support your denominational agencies, your council of churches and your Christian organizations in the formation of united resettlement committees.

These refugees deserve your aid."

Under the terms of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, some 200,000 displaced persons will be brought to the United States during the next two years. Many of these persons are farmers, skilled workmen, teachers, and professional people. Protestants have lagged behind other religious groups in offering help for them. For further information write Church World Service, Inc., 214 E. 21st St., New York 10, N.Y.

## WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

ROBERT A. FANGMEIER

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. Although conscientious objectors are exempt under the draft law there are some pitfalls not generally known to the public. The law provides for exemption of men who are COs by reason of "religious training and belief," which means belief in a Supreme Being, as spelled out in the Act. Political, humanitarian, and other objectors are not included in this definition. Observers in Washington feel that fear of Communists led Congress to narrow the definition over that of the Service Act of 1940.

COs are warned that if they expect to claim exemption as conscientious objectors at any time they must insist upon 4E classification when first called. The law provides that local boards must consider men for classification in the following order: 5A, 4F, 4E (CO), 2C, or 2A. This means that if a man is classified 5A or 4F he must be considered for 4E if he requests it. If he does not request it, and insist upon it, and accepts some other deferment he may be refused CO classification later on. Selective Service has warned that it is not compelled to grant 4E classification to those who do not demand it when they first appear.

THE LOYALTY PROGRAM. The headline hysteria over Communists in government is being felt in Washington government agencies. ECA rejected the application of a man who had served with distinction as an official in both the War and State Departments because, while he had held jobs involving responsibility and trust for a number of years, it was learned that he had made a small contribution to antifascist organization during the Spanish Civil War. ECA has issued a memorandum saying that any person who has ever belonged to an organization on the Attorney General's list of Communist-front organizations is ineligible for ECA employment. It does not matter whether the person quit the organization when he discovered that it was Communist or whether he was in the anti-Communist bloc of the organization. Even if the applicant belonged to the organization before it became Communist-dominated or before it was on the Attorney General's black list, he is still barred from employment. A Negro employe of the Post Office Department was discharged because he had formerly been a member of the National Negro Congress. It happened that this individual was one of those who led the walk-out of non-Communists from the organization, but that fact did not matter. What did matter was that his name had once been on the rolls of the organization. In another case, a man was fired because his wife had been a member of the Communist Party before 1939. This man had insisted that his wife sever her relations with the party. This she did and neither had any further association with the Communists. But he was discharged just the same. A State Department employe was discharged because he had contributed to the defense fund of a college roommate involved in the Canadian Spy trials. The roommate was cleared of the charge and is now back in his Canadian government job, but his American friend who contributed to his defense is without a job. It is reported that one person is now before the Loyalty Review Board because he once contributed to the Spanish Loyalists. Also, the case of a girl who possessed records of Paul Robeson. Government agencies are afraid to face Congress with even the faintest tinge of "pink" on their records.

CHURCH GROUPS ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE. The Friends, Presbyterians and Baptists have established joint cooperative offices in Washington for their representatives dealing with legislative and other matters. The new office is located at 11th and K Streets, N.W. Maintaining headquarters in the building will be the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Washington representative of the Department of Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and the Washington representative of the Council for Christian Social Progress of the Northern Baptist Convention. The Washington office of the Congregational Council for Social Action will continue.



## ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

**HAYNES HONORED.** On August 26, Governor Thomas E. Dewey announced the appointment of Dr. George E. Haynes as one of the fifteen trustees of the new New York State University System, authorized by the legislature last March. Last February the previously appointed Commission on a State University, under the chairmanship of Owen D. Young, recommended to the Governor and state legislature the creation of a comprehensive university system for the State of New York. Dr. Haynes served as a member of the Commission and will be one of fifteen trustees of the newly created New York State University System. Prior to retirement a year ago he was for twenty-five years executive secretary of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches.

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**GEORGIA CITY PROMOTES NEGRO HOUSING.** In pleasing contrast to the recent political triumph of "white supremacy" in Georgia is the development in Savannah of "Carver Village," one of the most notable housing projects for Negroes to be found in America. Located on a hundred acre tract five minutes by bus from downtown Savannah, the project will comprise 608 modern homes to be sold on easy terms within the reach of any family—\$100 down and \$29.64 per month till paid for. Each house has four rooms, bath and central heat, and is solidly built of concrete, steel and tile. Several large parks and a business district are provided in the subdivision, together with paved streets and all public utilities. Though privately financed by local business men, the project has the approval of the Federal Housing Administration and the cooperation of the city government. (Interracial Notes.)

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**BUTTERING UP FRANCO.** Recent dispatches telling of the visits of several prominent Americans, including Senator Chan Gurney, chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, to Franco, the Spanish dictator, together with other stories easily recognizable by informed readers as of the "trial balloon" type, should give fair warning that something is in the air with reference to Franco Spain. The best guess is that the American people are being "softened up" to make them accept recognition of the Spanish regime when the time seems propitious. It is significant, too, that the anti-Franco Spanish groups have organized to demand intervention by the U.N. Best guess as to what is back of it is that the Catholic Church, sorely beset in Italy, would like to have the Spanish "defender of the faith" in the good graces of the Western powers, plus the fact that American military men see the Pyrenees as the last line of Western defense in event of war with Russia. An attempt would be made to hold the Rhine, but with little hope of success. Once the Rhine is crossed the next defendable line would be the Pyrenees. Some authorities question whether the British Isles could be defended. Governments with African territories are said to be planning transfer of their functions to that continent in event of war. At any rate, the situation makes a 'natural' for both Franco and the Western military leaders. Franco has no desire to fall into the hands of the Russians and would probably make many concessions to gain recognition.

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**NO WAR SOON?** You can sit back and relax, says David Lawrence's *United States News and World Report* (October 15, 1948), for there is not going to be a war soon or perhaps not for a long time. We are not going to do any shooting and neither is Russia. If Dewey is elected (and we'll know by the time this is read) the change will be away from emphasis on war. The talk of a "preventive war," the concept of some atomic bomb enthusiasts in the Air Force, will be played down. Dewey may announce John Foster Dulles as his

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

## IS THE CIO BECOMING A CATHOLIC LABOR ORGANIZATION?

JAMES A. CRAIN

In the April, 1948, issue of *Social Action News-Letter* this writer called attention to the purges then going on in a number of unions belonging to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, directed, ostensibly, at Communist leadership. The article pointed out that while no doubt Communists had infiltrated certain unions, there seemed to be evidence that the crusade was being sparked by Catholics both within and without the unions who were using the Communist threat as cloak under which to get control of the movement. Attention was called in this connection to an article written by James Higgins for the *New Republic* (October 20, 1947) describing the growing influence of the Association of Catholic Trades Unionists (ACTU), which has strong priestly leadership and which specializes in training Catholic workers for labor union leadership. Higgins declared that ACTU was exercising great influence not only in local groups, but also over certain high officials of the national CIO.

Evidence continues to pile up that the Anti-Communist crusade within the CIO is not directed exclusively against Communists (whose disruptive and destructive tactics make them legitimate targets), but also against all liberal leaders within the movement. Shortly after the April article appeared rumors were afloat that Kermit Eby, educational director of the National CIO, Church of the Brethren minister, and active in liberal causes, was marked for separation from his job. Some weeks ago announcement was made that Eby had resigned to accept a position on the faculty of the University of Chicago. Washington sources say that there is considerable mystery about whether he actually resigned or was discharged. He is said to have remarked several months ago that the "CIO is going to war," and that he was a minority holding out against the group determined to purge those who disagreed with the dominant trend. Informed Washington observers point out that the drive to eliminate the Communist element seems also to have been a drive to place Catholics in the driver's seat. It is said that when the ACTU was formed in 1937 it was as an alternative to setting up a Roman Catholic trades union organization. It begins to look as if the Catholic Bishops are accomplishing by oblique methods the same result. Protestant workers will support legitimate efforts of CIO unions or any other organizations to free themselves from Communist leadership, but they will resent deeply the effort of any church to place its own members in positions of leadership of movements which by their very nature serve all the people. It will be a serious blow to the labor movement if this important group of workers seems to fall under ecclesiastical domination, whatever the source.

## TO STUDY CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE

A new approach to labor-management relations is announced by the National Planning Association under a committee made up of well known labor leaders, industrial relations consultants, and professors of labor relations.

The purpose of the project is to study "Causes of Industrial Peace," as the undertaking will be known, rather than the causes of industrial discord. An effort will be made to discover what factors contribute to good relations between management and labor and to make information concerning these facts available to labor, management and the general public. Ten thousand leaders of labor, industry and public service were asked to nominate firms and union representative of successful collective bargaining relationships. From nearly a thousand different firms nominated fifteen were chosen for study. These firms are in the steel, chemical, glass, aircraft, clothing, food, and textile industries. The

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)



## PROGRAM FOR SAN FRANCISCO ALCOHOLICS PROPOSED

"San Francisco is considered to be the worst metropolitan city in the United States with regard to the number of its excessive drinkers and the increasing volume of its chronic alcoholics," says a report made to the California Crime Commission by District Attorney Edmund G. Brown, and reported in the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, September 29, 1948. "This indictment in itself is damning enough," says the report, "but unfortunately, we also have the reputation, and it would appear justifiably so, of being one of the most archaic and backward cities in our method of arresting, caring for and disposing of our so-called 'drunks.'" The report is based on a four months study made by Emmet Daly, special assistant District Attorney and former special agent of the FBI.

The report points out that in 1947, 46,415 persons were arrested for drunkenness, 96 percent of whom were dismissed without either prosecution or effort to help. This "revolving door" method of handling alcoholics, says the report, is both wasteful and unscientific. Alcoholism is a disease, for which jail and prison sentences do not constitute a cure. Modern scientific experiments have proved that clinics under the direction of medical and psychiatric personnel have showed encouraging results.

District Attorney Brown proposed a 10 point program to meet the situation in San Francisco:

1. Continued statewide study of the alcoholic problem by the governor's special Crime Study Commission.
2. Revision of legal codes so that inebriety may be recognized as a disease and not as a crime.
3. Establishment of a San Francisco out-patient clinic for alcoholics near "Skid Row."
4. Change in methods of disposition of persons convicted of drunkenness.
5. A change in methods of making arrests for drunkenness.
6. Fingerprinting and photographing of all alcoholics.
7. Financing out-patient clinics from money collected from liquor sales licenses.
8. Discontinuance of "useless examinations" by the San Francisco Lunacy Commission.
9. An educational program to educate the "boy of today" about the use and abuse of alcohol.
10. State-operated farms for alcoholics.

## WORLD ORDER INSTITUTE AT PHILLIPS

An experiment in campus-wide social education was carried on in an Institute on World Order held at Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma, October 5-8. The project was sponsored by the University in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society, under the local chairmanship of Dr. Harold F. Humbert, professor of History and chairman of the division of social sciences of the University and Dr. T. R. Schaffler, professor of sociology and chairman of the division of liberal arts. James A. Crain and Walter W. Sikes represented the Department of Social Welfare.

The program was planned to give both undergraduate and graduate students in the liberal arts college an opportunity to participate in all the sessions of the institute. A lecture on some aspect of the world situation was given in the Women's Gymnasium each day at eleven o'clock. At 2 p. m. three parallel seminars were carried on, followed by a public forum and discussion session at 4 p. m. At 8 p. m. each day a formal address was given by one of the guest lecturers.

Guest lecturers were Dr. Hans J. Morgenthau, of the University of Chicago, Martin Hall, German refugee and professor at the University of Minnesota, Vernon Nash, vice president of United World Federalists, and James A. Crain and Walter W. Sikes of the Department of Social Welfare.

## WORLD COUNCIL.....Cont. from Page 1, Col. 1

The necessity and the obligation for striving to create them was emphatically declared in many ways by the Amsterdam assembly. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr notes in an interpretation of the World Assembly in *Christianity and Crisis* that "In contrast to the sharp differences of conviction on almost every question of theology and polity, there was a remarkable consensus on social issues," so that there was manifested a "fairly common mind on what (the Church) should do in the present world."

Of the four sections of the Official Report formulated by the World Assembly two deal explicitly with these social issues, and much of the substance of a third one is devoted to the same concerns. This stress upon political and economic affairs is not new in ecumenical conferences. Indeed every such conference which has been held since the birth of the present ecumenical movement, at least since the Stockholm conference in 1925, has concerned itself with these issues. But the urgency of the secular tensions have made manifest, even to those who have hitherto inclined to make a distinction between Christian duty and secular responsibility, that such distinction is no longer possible.

Commenting upon this point Dr. Niebuhr remarks further, "The old contrast between American activism and continental quietism has disappeared completely. The European churches awakened to their social responsibilities in the last tragic decade. In doing so they have become considerably more radical than most American churches."

This radicalism is voiced explicitly in the Report. And it is important to note that it is rooted not in secular revolutionary ideology but in the prophetic and sacerdotal traditions of Christianity. Space limitations here do not allow even a digest of this important Report. It is possible only to indicate a few of the passages in which the Amsterdam Assembly voiced its convictions that the gospel in our day must be brought to bear upon the confused and conflicting areas of secular life.

"We recognize with shame that the church has not been faithful in proclaiming the gospel. . . . Sometimes . . . because it was not living by the gospel, and therefore had nothing to say to which men could be expected to listen." This general critique is made explicit in a number of details which bear upon the economic and political life of modern society. The churches "have often failed to understand the forces which have shaped society around them, and so they have been unprepared to deal creatively with new problems as they have arisen in technical civilization," the Report declares. And in view of this deficiency it becomes "the responsibility of Christians to seek new creative solutions."

"Great are the tasks and fateful the responsibilities laid on Christians today. . . . In our own strength we can do nothing; but our hope is in Christ. . . . We pray that we may be strengthened by the power of his might and used by him for accomplishing his design among the nations."

## SOCIAL FRONTIERS.....Cont. from Page 3, Col. 1

choice for Secretary of State the day after the election and a new approach will be tried out without resorting to appeasement. Diplomacy will be put back in the hands of civilians and the generals will return to their Army jobs. This and more, Mr. Lawrence says, is in store for us after the election, provided—!

## INDUSTRIAL PEACE.....Cont. from Page 3, Col. 2

first study, dealing with labor relations in the Crown Zellerbach Co., a West Coast paper and pulp concern, is now ready.

Subscriptions for the entire series of 15 studies are \$12.50, or individual studies for \$1 each, from the National Planning Association, 800 21st St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.